

to undo a great mistake, and it may also be our chance to prevent an even greater mistake.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

RECOGNIZING THE NDSU 2022 NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 2022 Football Championship Subdivision national champions, the North Dakota State University Bison.

This past weekend, North Dakotans once again filled Toyota Stadium in Frisco, TX, where the NDSU Bison seized their 17th NCAA championship, earning victory over the Montana State University Bobcats by a score of 38 to 10.

I had the opportunity to join Bison Nation in Frisco to cheer on the team, and, as always, the fans created an overwhelming atmosphere of support and team spirit.

At the same time, the Bobcats should come away from the game with pride, having capped off a successful season. The Bison have now won 9 of the past 11 FCS championships—an achievement that goes unmatched in modern collegiate football history.

Further, this victory followed a strong season for the Bison, where they had a 14-win and 1-loss record—a continuation of a decades' worth of excellence and skill. Since 2011, the NDSU Bison have had 149 wins to only 12 losses, which includes a streak of 39 consecutive wins. Such a record stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of the players and staff, including Head Coach Matt Entz.

Accordingly, I am joining with my colleague Senator CRAMER to introduce a resolution honoring the NDSU Bison's achievements. We congratulate all of the players, coaches, and university leadership, including Athletic Director Matt Larsen, NDSU President Dean Bresciani, and others, on building this tremendously successful program. We recognize the important support of Bison Nation, which helps drive this team to victory year after year.

The NDSU Bison are the pride of North Dakota. Their accomplishments, character, and work ethic represent the very best of our State. We say congratulations again to the national champions, and, as always, we say: Go Bison.

I ask unanimous consent to have the resolution printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the North Dakota State University Bison football team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title.

Whereas, the North Dakota State University (referred to in this preamble as "NDSU") Bison football team won the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division I Football Championship Subdivision

(referred to in this preamble as the "FCS") title game in Frisco, TX, on January 8, 2022, in a well-fought victory over the Montana State University Bobcats by a score of 38 to 10;

Whereas, including the 2022 NCAA Division I FCS title, the NDSU Bison football team has won 17 national football championships;

Whereas, the NDSU Bison football team has won 9 of the last 11 NCAA Division I FCS titles, an achievement that continues to be unmatched in modern collegiate football history;

Whereas, the NDSU Bison have displayed tremendous resilience and skill since 2011, with 149 wins to only 12 losses, including a streak of 39 consecutive wins;

Whereas, head coach Matt Entz and his staff led the NDSU Bison football team to a dominant season and a second championship in his 3 years as head coach at NDSU, continuing the NDSU Bison football program's culture of excellence;

Whereas, thousands of Bison fans once again attended the championship game in Frisco, TX, reflecting the tremendous pride and dedication of Bison Nation, which has supported and helped drive the achievement of the NDSU Bison football team; and

Whereas, the 2022 NCAA Division I FCS title was a victory for both the NDSU Bison football team and the entire State of North Dakota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the North Dakota State University Bison football team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I FCS title;

(2) commends the players, coaches, and staff of the North Dakota State University Bison football team for—

(A) their tireless work and dedication; and
(B) fostering a continued tradition of excellence;

(3) congratulates North Dakota State University President Dean Bresciani, North Dakota State University Athletic Director Matt Larsen, and all the faculty and staff of North Dakota State University for creating an environment that emphasizes excellence in both academics and athletics; and

(4) recognizes the students, alumni, fans, and all of Bison Nation for supporting the North Dakota State University Bison football team so well during its successful quest to bring home yet another NCAA Division I FCS trophy for North Dakota State University.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, before I turn to my colleague Senator CRAMER, I want to mention that I was at the national championship game. It was just fantastic.

As I say, Bison Nation, which is all our Bison fans from North Dakota and across the country, and the coaches, the staff, President Bresciani, and, of course, these great student athletes who had such a wonderful game—it was a great show. They turned out in force in Frisco, TX. We are starting to call Frisco Fargo South, which is actually the name of one of the high schools up in Fargo, which is kind of fun. But our fans travelled down there so well, filled the stadium, and they did once again. It was just a wonderful atmosphere. It was on national television, so they performed on a national stage, and people from across the country got to watch a wonderful game.

But leading up to that game, in the semifinals, they played James Madison University, which has a tremendous

football program as well. That was on a Friday night, and it was the Friday night where we were last here several weeks ago voting until about 2 o'clock in the morning.

The reason I bring up the story is because we must have had—you were there, Mr. President—we must have had like north of 20 votes at least. So we started early in the evening and went until 2 in the morning or thereabouts.

But the semifinal game between the North Dakota State University Bison and the James Madison Dukes was on television that Friday evening, so between votes, we were going into the cloakroom, and we had it on television there. So between votes, all the Senators—at least in the Republican cloakroom—we had it on, and we were watching the game.

It was a lot of fun and helped, you know, with the long evening, but it really demonstrated how this program has done so much in terms of for the State and NDSU and really providing an awareness nationwide of these great student athletes we have, because all of our colleagues got to see them, and they commented on not just the caliber of the football that our team played—it was a hard-fought game. James Madison has a wonderful program as well; again, really just a class operation. So the Bison won in a hard-fought game.

But the other thing that was fun—we have a dome. We call it the Bison Dome. Go figure. And remember that Bison is B-I-S-O-N, but it is a Z, not an S, when you say it properly. But they showed all the fans having fun and the noise in the dome, which makes it so hard to come up and play North Dakota State on our home field in our dome. Everybody, of course, is dressed in green and gold. But what an incredible sports atmosphere.

For anyone who likes collegiate athletics, this is one of the most iconic, greatest venues in the country. Again, it is Bison Nation. It is the fans. It is everybody—the coaching staff, President Bresciani, his whole team, the staff and faculty, and, of course, most of all, the student athletes.

I know the Presiding Officer, coming from Michigan, knows what great sports teams are all about.

Their commitment, their hard work, their passion, their support of Bison Nation—all these things just make it a joyous and wonderful thing.

I can't say enough about these young people, the commitment they made and the hard work that they do. Many of them may actually end up in the professional ranks. So they are playing at an extremely high level. They are just wonderful young people, and I can't say enough great things about them.

Once again, now 9 out of the last 11 years, national champs—again, congratulations and go, Bison.

With that, I would like to turn to my colleague Senator CRAMER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I thank Senator HOEVEN. I just want to fully associate myself with every word of Senator HOEVEN and every thought you just heard. JOHN HOEVEN is not just a Senator who represents the State that the Bison play in; he is a fan. To say the least, he is a fan.

Senator HOEVEN did a great job, as have ESPN and everybody else, in highlighting the legacy of the Bison Nation. There has been 9 out of 11 national championships.

One of the things I really appreciate about Coach Matt Entz—who, by the way, was named this year again the FCS Coach of the Year. That is the second FCS National Coach of the Year in the last 3 years. He has been the coach for 3 years.

But, as he likes to point out, while it is, in fact, the ninth national championship in 11 seasons for the Bison, it is the first one for this team—a fact that we sometimes forget. Excellence over time requires one excellent team after another. So I want to focus just a little bit not so much on the legacy but on this particular team.

Remember, as Senator HOEVEN said, they beat the Bobcats 38 to 10. It became 38 to 10 after they had been ahead 35 to 0. That is not a minor thing in collegiate football. But the 38-to-10 victory tied with the fourth largest margin of victory in FCS championship game history. After that is NDSU's 28-point victory over Towson to cap the 2013 season. It was the fourth time NDSU has won the FCS championship by 26 or more points.

North Dakota State's 108 rushing yards in the first quarter and 160 in the second quarter marked the third and fourth times in the 2021 FCS playoffs that the Bison ran for 100 yards in a quarter. Imagine that. Twice they did it in the same game—103 in the first quarter and 116 in the second quarter of NDSU's second-round win over Southern Illinois.

Now, NDSU's 28-to-0 halftime lead was the largest halftime margin in FCS championship history, passing the 24-to-0 Bison lead over Jacksonville State in 2015. In other words, this team, this one team, is excellent among excellence. They had 378 yards rushing and 540 yards of total offense. That was the most by the Bison in FCS championship game history, surpassing a 300-yard rushing performance against Sam Houston State in 2012 and 488 total yards against Eastern Washington in the 2018 season.

We have to talk a little bit about fullback Hunter Luepke, who was voted the Most Outstanding Player of the championship game. He tied a career-high with three rushing touchdowns—the first three of the game, one shy of the FCS championship game record of four rushing touchdowns by Furman's John Bagwell in 1985.

This team, this one excellent team out of dozens of excellent teams over

the years, and this one excellent player obviously stand out, along with their one excellent coach, as I said earlier, Matt Entz, the FCS National Coach of the Year.

I love that Senator HOEVEN consistently refers to these players as student athletes because, remember, before they are football players, they are students, and I think it is worth noting what exceptional students they are.

NDSU's Cole Wisniewski was the winner of the NCAA Elite 90 Award. The Elite 90 is presented to the student athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships. But he is one among many. Five student athletes were named to the football all-academic team. NDSU linebacker Jackson Hankey headlines this group of five student athletes named to the Missouri Valley Football Conference All-Academic Team on December 14.

I think it is important to highlight and be specific about these guys. Hankey is a senior from Park River, ND. John and I know Park River. It is a pretty small place. He has an undergraduate degree not in underwater basket weaving and not even in physical education, although there is nothing wrong with that, but, rather, in agricultural economics. He was selected to the first team with a 3.636 grade point average.

Here are the other four besides him: Hunter Luepke, the outstanding player of the game, has a 3.42 GPA in finance. Sophomore defensive tackle Eli Mostaert has a 3.733 GPA in finance. Kicker Jake Reinholz has a 4.00 GPA in the master's degree program in mechanical engineering. The senior defensive tackle, Lane Tucker, has a 3.857 GPA in the MBA program. Great athletes are smart athletes. Great athletes are smart athletes.

All right. To continue that, this is a tribute. Well, while they take the stage on ESPN and on game day and the various programs, it is important to point out that North Dakota State University's athletic teams achieved a remarkable—remarkable—semester last fall with a 3.418 grade point average among all 427 student athletes. Three Bison teams earned the highest ever GPA. The statistics are incredible. They are incredible in terms of academic achievements of these outstanding athletes throughout all of the sports at North Dakota State University, not just football. But they definitely lead the charts.

So, to wrap up, in talking again a little bit about the dynasty, one of my favorite quotes—and I refer to it a lot; I use it a lot when I talk about Bison football—is Aristotle, who said:

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, [therefore], is not an act, but a habit.

It is not an act. It is a habit.

There are 9 out of 11 national championships in the FCS alone. Before that, as Division II, they won several national championships. They never

lost a national championship. In other words, they repeatedly win national championships. That makes winning habitual. It is habitual.

They made their ninth appearance, as I said, in the championship game—the most of any FCS team. They won them all, as we know. They now have 17 football national championships in history. They won their last 13 title game appearances. I mean, it is kind of remarkable. They improved to 41 and 3—imagine this, Senator HOEVEN—41 and 3 in FCS playoffs since 2010.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

I, as well, salute Dean Bresciani, the president; Matt Entz, the head coach; the entire coaching staff; the entire faculty; every student athlete; and every parent who got these student athletes to college.

It is just a remarkable thing to be able to represent this level of excellence, and I join Senator HOEVEN in saying: "Horns up! Go Bison! Go Bison!"

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank Senator CRAMER for his comments and wonderful commentary on these great student athletes, but there is one other point I want to make that goes to the excellence of this program.

In the last national championship they won, the quarterback was a wonderful player by the name of Trey Lance. He played for 1 year as a redshirt freshman. So he easily could have been playing this year, which would have been probably his sophomore or, maybe, junior year. It is a little hard to say with the COVID spring season, but I think it would have been his sophomore year.

The reason he wasn't able to quarterback the team is that he was quarterbacking the San Francisco 49ers to a win in the NFL. So they bring in another redshirt freshman quarterback who platoons with some other players, who is another wonderful quarterback, Cam Miller. So they win it with another player.

Again, it just shows, even as they lose some of these players—sometimes in the transfer portal and sometimes to the NFL, as Senator CRAMER said—they keep bringing in just excellent athletes, and he mentioned a number of them. It is not just that they are excellent athletes; they are student athletes. Again, that goes to the quality and the character of the program.

So we commend all of them—Senator CRAMER, thanks for joining me—and also with KELLY ARMSTRONG in the House in recognizing a wonderful group that truly deserves it—all the Bison nation.

Anything else from Senator CRAMER? All right.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the North Dakota

Senators, my colleagues, on the great job with their football team.

“Go Bison!”

Well done, North Dakota.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. President, I wanted to come down here, like many of my colleagues today, and talk about a really important topic, and that is the future of the filibuster and the issue of voting rights, both of which are very important to this country. We are going to be focused a lot—perhaps with some major votes, historic votes, in the U.S. Senate this week—on these topics.

There has been a lot of talk recently from my Democratic colleagues about actually getting rid of the filibuster. This, as many of my colleagues have mentioned, would be an action that would fundamentally transform this institution and this country.

The irony is that, until very recently, the vast majority of our colleagues here—Republicans and Democrats—were in agreement on this topic, in essence, of getting rid of the filibuster, which has been part of the U.S. Senate for decades—for centuries, in many aspects, if you look at our history. It would not be a wise move for the Senate. It would not be a wise move for America. This has been a longstanding bipartisan view.

Let me just give you a couple of quotes from some of my colleagues.

My colleague from Montana, Senator TESTER, just said last year:

I am a “no” on changing the filibuster. I am a “no.” The move to make the Senate like the House, I think, is a mistake.

My colleague from Delaware, Senator COONS, said in 2018:

I am committed to never voting to change the legislative filibuster.

That is what Senator COONS said.

My colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, in 2018, also said:

I can tell you getting rid of the filibuster would be the end of the Senate as it was originally devised and created going back to our Founding Fathers. We have to acknowledge respect for the minority, and that is what the Senate tries to do in its composition and its procedure.

Wise words from Senator DURBIN.

Of course, there is a trove of quotes from the majority leader, Senator SCHUMER, who vehemently opposed getting rid of the filibuster in the past when he was in the minority. Let me highlight just a few of them.

Here is one he said in 2005:

Bottom line is very simple. The ideologues in the Senate want to turn what the Founding Fathers called the “cooling saucer of democracy” into the rubberstamp of dictatorship. We will not let them. They want to make this country into a banana republic.

Never one for subtlety, that is our majority leader right now.

Then he went on to say:

It would be doomsday for democracy.

Again, not too subtle there, the majority leader.

It would be doomsday for democracy if we get rid of the filibuster.

Here is another Senator who is very famous around the world and who became President, Barack Obama.

He said with regard to getting rid of the filibuster in 2005:

What they do not expect is for one party, be it Republican or Democrat, to change the rules in the middle of the game so that they can make all the decisions while the other party is told to sit down and keep quiet.

Since we are reaching back, let me quote the late Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia on this issue.

Here he is in 2005:

The filibuster must go, they say. In my 53 years in Congress, I have never seen a matter that came before the Congress, before the Senate, or the House, as a matter of fact, that is so dangerous, so out of the mainstream, and so radical as this one. I pray that Senators will pause and reflect before ignoring that history and tradition in favor of the political priority of the moment.

That was Senator Byrd.

Of course, it is not just Senators. Here is what the organ of the Democratic Party, also known as the New York Times editorial board, said in 2004 about the filibuster:

Republicans see the filibuster as an annoying obstacle, but it is actually one of the checks and balances that the Founders, who worried greatly about the concentration of power, built into our system.

So this has been a view that has been widely held: Don't get rid of the filibuster.

Senator MANCHIN, in an op-ed recently, talking about how he would not, under no circumstances, vote to eliminate or weaken the filibuster, gave a really important reason why, which, as Alaska's Senator, I feel very strongly about. He noted in that piece that the current rules with regard to the filibuster and the 60-vote threshold guarantee that “rural and small States and the Americans who live in them always have a seat at the table in the U.S. Senate.”

Well, I think that that is enormously important. It is enormously important for Alaska, but it is enormously important for the Senate as a body, which was how we were designed by the Founding Fathers.

Now, you know, there are charges of hypocrisy that can be leveled at this institution and at the Members in it. Many times, there are examples of when Members of Congress say one thing when they are in power and have authority and they say another thing when they are out of power. But I will tell you, on this issue, that has not been the case for the Republican Senators here.

What do I mean?

In 2017, 61 U.S. Senators, in this letter, wrote the majority leader, then Senator MCCONNELL, and the minority leader, Senator SCHUMER—33 Republicans and 30 Democrats—saying, in essence, don't get rid of the filibuster. These were 30 Democrats, 4 years ago, who wrote this letter, saying don't get rid of the filibuster.

Now, that is when the Republicans were in the majority, and there was a Republican in the White House. There was pressure, I will tell you, on Republicans like there is now on Democrats,

from certain elements in the White House and other places, to get rid of the filibuster, and we didn't do it. We did not do it for all of the reasons that we have been discussing.

Yet I guess we are going to see a vote in the first time in history, I believe, in the U.S. Senate where the majority leader of the U.S. Senate is going to actually move forward to start getting rid of the filibuster. I am pretty sure that has never happened—the legislative filibuster—in the history of the United States of America. It is a big deal.

So, look, my Democratic colleagues are clearly cognizant of how vulnerable they look with regard to being hypocritical on the issue. As I mentioned, 31 of them, just 4 years ago, signed a letter, saying don't get rid of it when Republicans had power in the Senate and in the White House, and we didn't. But now, they are like, Hmm, we are going to flip-flop and say we should get rid of it.

The Presiding Officer may have seen that there are already these filibuster flip-flop cards. I won't name the Senators, but it shows them wearing flip-flops. The President is there, but it is already out there, right? This is a big, big flip-flop, not on some small issue but on one of the most fundamental issues in the U.S. Senate, and my colleagues know this.

So what is their response? What is their response?

In looking at their previous statements, like the Senate majority leader's, who has made a lot of statements—I have just read a few—in saying, you know, that it doesn't really matter, and I didn't really mean it, what is the argument? Well, here is the argument. Here is their argument. The Senate filibuster must be nuked because American democracy must be saved from Republican State legislators and Republican Members of Congress and their so-called Jim Crow 2.0 schemes. This is their new language. Everybody from the President to Majority Leader SCHUMER is using this talking point.

Just yesterday and today, the majority leader was going on about Republican Jim Crow 2.0 schemes and the need for Democrats to protect and defend American democracy, and Joe Biden—that unifier, that great unifier—uses the Jim Crow 2.0 charge against Republicans on a very regular basis. As a matter of fact, he just did it a few hours ago, again, down in Georgia today.

It is all historically inaccurate, and it is insulting to millions of Americans. Of course, they are stated with a smug, moral superiority, their arguments that voting rights laws—just listen to them, listen to them—in Democrat States are good and noble and are protecting American democracy while voting rights laws in Republican States are bad and even racist. Jim Crow 2.0 is their argument. Listen to the President. Listen to the majority leader.